GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2598
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Mineral Output
Udhayakumar Shri M.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of mineral output in the country has declined by 11% during 2015-16 despite 9% rise in volumes, if so, the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has already lined up 50 atomic mineral blocks and 100 others for auctions, if so, the details and the facts thereof; and
(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to check the said decline?

Answer

(a): Aggregate production of the major minerals on tonnage basis increased by 9.4% in 2015-16.
(Production in million tonne and growth in %)

Minerals	2014-15	2015-16	Growth
Major minerals*	452.46	495.03	9.4

*excludes precious stones and metals, hydro-carbons and atomic minerals

However, in value terms, the mineral production has registered a decline due to prevailing volatility in the commodity market.
(b): As regards 'atomic minerals' (defined under Part B, First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957), the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research has established 128 Beach Sand Mineral deposits in different States, wherein 62 deposits are reserved for exclusive use by the Government Companies. The remaining 66 deposits, which contain 'atomic minerals' below the threshold value would be in the public domain for participation by entrepreneurs on auction basis.
During the remaining period of 2016-17, the states have so far intimated for initiating the auctioning procedure in respect of 16 mineral blocks other than atomic minerals as per details provided in the Annexure.
(c): Volume of minerals production in the country has registered a robust growth during last two years. Increase in value of production is contingent upon stabilization of national and international prices of the minerals.